

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 ICA-20 IO-14 AF-10 HA-05

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02 /129 W

-----127481 281851Z /45 42

R 281805Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1400

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15663

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: METALWORKERS UNION PRESIDENT URGES OBSERVANCE
OF EC CODE OF CONDUCT BY GERMAN FIRMS OPERATING IN SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: BONN 309

SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT OF THE DGB METALWORKERS UNION

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(IG METALL), EUGEN LODERER, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION (IMF), HAS
ADDRESSED AN URGENT APPEAL TO GERMAN COMPANIES
OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA TO OBSERVE THE EC CODE OF
CONDUCT FOR MULTINATIONALS WITH SUBSIDIARIES IN SOUTH
AFRICA. THE LETTER INCLUDED A QUESTIONNAIRE REQUEST-
ING INFORMATION ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND RECOGNI-

TION OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS. END
SUMMARY.

1. A JULY 31 PRESS RELEASE OF IG METALL ANNOUNCED A LETTER FROM IG METALL PRESIDENT EUGEN LODERER TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT OF DAIMLER-BENZ AG, BAYERISCHE MOTORENWERKE AG, MAGIRUS DEUTZ AG, SIEMENS WERKE AG, DEMAG AG, ROBERT BOSCH GMBH, AEG-TELEFUNKEN, AND VOLKSWAGENWERK AG. IN THE LETTER, LODERER STRONGLY URGED THE COMPANIES TO IMPLEMENT THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT IN THEIR SUBSIDIARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. THE LETTER CONTAINED A QUESTIONNAIRE WITH A RESPONSE REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 15 ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS. THIS ACTION WAS COORDINATED ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS THROUGH THE IMF IN GENEVA. A REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE IMF ON THE IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF IMF PRESIDENT LODERER AND IMF SECRETARY GENERAL REBHAN DURING THEIR TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA EARLIER THIS YEAR WAS INCLUDED AS A SEPARATE ENCLOSURE.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS OF THE LETTER:

- THE UNION HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION POINTING TO SOME PROGRESS, SUCH AS A GREATER INCLUSION OF BLACK
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WORKERS IN TRAINING COURSES FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS AND A WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH BLACK LABOR UNIONS EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED.

- HOWEVER, THE TEMPO OF SUCH PROGRESS STILL APPEARS DANGEROUSLY SLOW, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE

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GROWING IMPATIENCE WITH APARTHEID POLICY, AND
DEMANDS FOR A TOTAL ECONOMIC BOYCOTT AND WITHDRAWAL
OF INVESTMENTS.

- THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE, WHICH MAY BE A
PRACTICAL AND USEFUL POLICY FOR MULTINATIONALS IN
MANY COUNTRIES, CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN ARGUMENT
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VIS-A-VIS THE APARTHEID POLICY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT.

- FIRMS ARE URGED TO ACCOMPLISH THE "ESSENTIALS" OF
THE EC CODE, WHICH CALLS FOR:

RECOGNITION OF BLACK LABOR UNIONS EVEN IF THEY
CANNOT PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF HAVING ORGANIZED 50
PERCENT OF THE WORKERS INVOLVED IN THE PARTICULAR
ENTERPRISE;

TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR QUALIFIED BLACK SKILLED
WORKERS;

ELIMINATION OF RACIAL SEGREGATION IN PLANT
FACILITIES; AND

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLE "EQUAL EFFICIENCY
- EQUAL WAGE".

4. IN CONCLUSION, THE LETTER SAYS: "IG METALL AND
THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION HAVE ENER-
GETICALLY ADVOCATED -- AGAINST THEIR CRITICS --
PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE EXPECT YOU TO
PROVIDE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT OUR VIEWS ARE RIGHT. WE
RECOMMEND THAT ALL GERMAN ENTERPRISES WITH OPERA-
TIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA TAKE COORDINATED ACTION IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa10635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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